

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge the indication that claims 16-30 are allowable and also that claims 32, 34-37 and 39 include allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, claim 32 is rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the independent base claim 31 and claims 33, 38 and 40-46 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Additionally, minor amendments are made to claims 32 and 41 to improve clarity of the claimed invention. Claims 16-30, 32, 34-37 and 39 are pending and allowable.

Applicants submit that amended claim 41 is in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112.

Claims 31, 33, 38 and 40-46 (although the recitation at the beginning of section 3 of the Office Action only refers to claims 31 and 33) were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable in view of Huusko et al. (WO 98/37721; hereafter "Huusko").

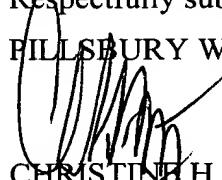
Applicants' cancellation of claims 33, 38 and 40-46 renders rejection of those claims moot.

Therefore, all objections and rejections have been addressed. Therefore, Applicants request issuance of a notice of allowance indicating the allowability of all pending claims. If anything further is necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, Applicants request that the Examiner contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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